

a base comprising a first surface and an opposing second surface, the first surface consisting of a planar surface adapted for parallel mating engagement with the first member, the base operably fixable to the first member to maintain the parallel mating engagement relationship of the base first surface and the first member; and

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a guide depending from the base adapted for operatively slidingly constraining the second member to maintain the transverse disposition of the first and second members during the displacement, the guide comprising opposing arms extending substantially transversely to the base second surface defining a channel that is receivingly engageable with and adaptively substantially spans the second member permitting freedom of movement between the guide and the second member in a sliding relationship during the displacement between the members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis.

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12. (Amended) The clip of claim 2 wherein the base is fixable to the first member by a fastener imparting an attachment force acting substantially parallel with the channel.

13. (Amended) The clip of claim 5 wherein the guide further comprises an indicia adaptively indicating a nominal position of the retainer.

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16. (Amended) A clip for joining a first longitudinal member transversely to a second longitudinal member in a slip joint for operatively permitting displacement

between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the first member comprising a planar medial web adjacent one or more transverse flanges and the second member comprising a medial web and one or more outer flanges, the clip comprising:

a base comprising a first surface and an opposing second surface, the first surface consisting of a planar surface adapted for parallel mating engagement with the first member web, the base operably fixable to the first member web to maintain the parallel mating engagement relationship of the base first surface and the first member web; and

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a guide depending from the base providing a channel adapted for operatively slidingly constraining the second member web to maintain the transverse disposition of the first and second members during the displacement along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the guide comprising:

a first arm extending substantially transversely from the base proximally adjacent the base second surface; and

a second arm extending from the base substantially in the same direction as the first arm and proximally adjacent the base second surface, the arms comprising bearing surfaces defining opposing sides of the channel to operatively adaptively substantially span the second member and that are selectively spaced apart in relation to the characteristic arrangement of the second member to adaptively permit freedom of movement between the guide and the second member web during the displacement between the

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members along the operative disposition of the second member
longitudinal axis.

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20. (Amended) The clip of claim 16 wherein the first member web and flanges
define a cavity, wherein the base adaptively substantially laterally spans the cavity.

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25. (Amended) The clip of claim 16 wherein the base is fixable to the first
member by a fastener imparting an attachment force acting substantially parallel with the
arms.

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27. (Amended) The clip of claim 26 wherein the base has a planar first surface
and an opposing second surface, and wherein the guide opposing arms comprise a first
arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base from a
proximal end adjacent the second surface, and a second arm extending away from the
base oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm.

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32. (Amended) The clip of claim 31 wherein the base has a planar first surface
and an opposing second surface, and wherein the guide opposing arms comprise a first
arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base from a
proximal end adjacent the second surface, and a second arm extending away from the
base oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm.

37. (Amended) A deflection clip for joining a first longitudinal member transversely to a second longitudinal member in a slip joint for operatively permitting displacement between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the first member comprising a planar medial web adjacent one or more transverse flanges and the second member comprising a medial web and one or more outer flanges, the clip comprising:

B8 a base comprising a first surface and an opposing second surface, the first surface consisting of a planar surface adapted for parallel mating engagement with the first member web, the base operably fixable to the first member web to maintain the parallel mating engagement relationship of the base first surface and the first member web; and

a guide depending from the base operatively slidably constraining the second member web during displacement between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the guide comprising:

a first arm extending substantially transverse to the base from a proximal end adjacent the base second surface and comprising a bearing surface adapted to slidably engage the second member during the displacement between the members; and

a second arm extending from the base oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm, the second arm comprising a bearing surface adapted to slidably engage the second member during the displacement between the members, the arms being noncoplanar and spaced apart in a